

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Andrea D. Branch, *et al.*

Serial No.: To Be Assigned


For: *Novel Hepatitis C Virus Peptides and Uses Thereof*

Attorney Docket No.: RII-003CPUSCN

Group Art Unit: 1648

Examiner: D. Wortman

Mail Stop: Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 2-30 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. An isolated polypeptide of the hepatitis C virus that is formed by expression of an overlapping open reading frame in the core protein gene sequence through a frame-shifting mechanism.